

Music development plan summary: The Wells Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	25/26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Abigail Hutchinson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Caroline Oliver/George Coles
Name of local music hub	Nottingham Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Nottingham Music Hub

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

The Well Academy provides an extensive, diverse, and progressive music curriculum for all students including pupil premium and SEND; curricular and co-curricular. Our curriculum intent at The Wells Academy is to develop an ambitious, inclusive and knowledge rich curriculum which is carefully sequenced. The curriculum is built around 4 Fundamental Ideas within music (playing and performance, composing, critical engagement and music technology) with each Fundamental Idea being revisited regularly from Year 7 to Year 11. Our curriculum also aims to improve the students' overall confidence and is linked the school values of integrity, resilience and. ambition. The teaching staff are experienced and have deep expertise in a number of curriculum areas.

Our school music curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (2021) as well as the National Curriculum (Music Programmes of Study: Key Stage 3) and builds on Key Stage 2. We are always continuing to adapt and develop our music curriculum plan to ensure students are achieving the best possible outcomes.

Please see link to Wells Academy curriculum for Music

<https://www.thewellsacademy.org/page/?title=Fundamental+Ideas+Curriculum&pid=60>

Students receive timetabled curriculum music of one hour each week of the school year during Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9). In lessons all students frequently sing and play keyboard, they also have access to ukuleles, guitars, drum kit, djembes as well as a range of tuned/untuned percussion and a selection of orchestral instruments. There is 1 music classroom which students can develop their understanding of music technology using platforms such as BandLab. We explore a broad and balanced curriculum with different topics focusing on areas such as Film Music, Western Classical Music, 20th Century Music, Music Technology, Popular Music, World music and the musical elements

At Key Stage 4 students follow the Edexcel BTEC Tech award Level 2 in Music Practice. This is divided into 3 components. Component 1 (worth 30%) is completed in Year 10 then component 2 (worth 30%) and component 3 (worth 40%) are completed in Year 11.

The BTEC Tech Award provides pupils with the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills within realistic vocational contexts. It enables pupils to develop essential skills that demonstrate their aptitude in music, such as responding to a musical brief using appropriate musical skills and techniques. Pupils will also learn about the processes that support effective working methods in the music sector, including the development of musical ideas and the application of skills and techniques during rehearsal, creation, production, and performance, personal management and communication.

Finally, the BTEC Tech Award provides pupils with foundational knowledge of a variety musical skills, ensembles, instrumental techniques, compositional and styles. Styles of music covered in the qualification includes popular music from the 1950s to 1990s, world music, fusion, film and TV music, computer games, western classical music, jazz and blues.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

The school performs a musical each year with opportunities for students to sing both in an ensemble and as a solo. Many students were involved whether that was on stage, backstage or front of house with students showing an interest in the production compared to the previous show.

Music club is run after school for students in any year group. During this club students have access to all the music equipment including music technology. Students have the opportunity to rehearse and practice and can ask any questions they may have about music. Students often rehearse individually or small groups with groups often containing students from different year groups.

Students at The Wells Academy have also been offered extra sessions for interventions and consolidation of skills. This has included workshop sessions working on compositional skills, music production performing as well as developing listening and appraisal skills.

There are no costs for the students involved in the musical, music club or interventions sessions.

We support and advertise local music clubs through our link with Nottingham Music hub. We work alongside the hub to offer instrumental lessons in the academy.

Progression in Music beyond the core curriculum

Musical progression is evaluated through the use of data regarding pupil progress. Musical opportunities are shared with the school, with a proactive approach to identifying and creating opportunities for students, particularly targeting individuals who show a strong interest or talent in music.

A range of careers in Music and the Arts are introduced to students as part of the curriculum provision. Core Competencies for Careers are discussed and how these link to the subject.

We are planning to give Music students the opportunity to visit local colleges to observe and experience music provision in further education.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

At Wells Academy, even if students decide not to take part in the school musical, they are encouraged to support those in it by watching it. The academy offers subsidised tickets to students and families to ensure that they can still experience school events outside of lesson times.

We are currently looking at developing a partnership with the London College of Creative Media and other local colleges in the Nottingham area.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

We are always improving and reviewing Music within the school both curricular and cocurricular and our aim is to provide inclusive practical music for all students.

We would like to provide more opportunities for students to see live performance outside of school to ensure they have more musical experiences.

Our aim is to offer more in-school music workshops from external providers.

We are planning to provide more opportunities to showcase performances in school more regularly and continue to increase opportunities for students to play a range of instruments.

Further information (optional)

Please see link to our local music hub partner Nottingham Music Hub for more information. <https://www.nottinghammusichub.org.uk/>